



General Announcement and Call for Special Sessions

5th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management

ISCRAM 2008

May 4th – 7th 2008

Washington, D.C., USA

“Creating Advanced Systems for Interorganizational Information Sharing and Collaboration”

ISCRAM: A Growing Community

The Information Systems for Crisis Response And Management (ISCRAM) community is rapidly growing. Past conferences held in Brussels, Belgium (2004, 2005), Newark, New Jersey (2006) and Delft, Netherlands (2007) attracted a large international audience from Europe, North America and the Pacific Region. The conference not only offers a platform for academic researchers, but an opportunity for practitioners in Emergency Response and Management to share their experiences and present their views on system requirements and improvements.

The 5th ISCRAM conference will be held from May 4th to 7th, 2008 at the George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, D.C., USA and the conference will be hosted by GWU's Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management (ICDRM). On Sunday the traditional program for Ph.D. students will be complemented by tutorials and sessions of Special Interest Groups. The main 3-day conference will be held from Monday to Wednesday, featuring many special sessions associated with the general 2008 conference theme: *“Creating Advanced Systems for Inter-organizational Information Sharing and Collaboration”*.



Call for Special Sessions

An important factor for the success of the former ISCRAM conferences has been the participation of community members to suggest and organize special sessions for the conference.

For ISCRAM 2008 we offer two categories for special session proposals:

Proposals for Academic sessions: these are sessions in which researchers from academia or research labs present their research or research-in-progress papers. These sessions will require prospective presenters to submit a *regular research* (or research in progress) *paper*.

Proposals for Practitioner sessions: these are sessions for practitioners to present their practice or experiences in information systems development, use or needs. These sessions will require prospective presenters to submit an *abstract* and a *PowerPoint presentation* or a *short practitioner paper*.

Each proposal should be linked to **only one** of the above categories. All papers and presentations will be reviewed according to academic standards (double blind peer review process with at least two reviews per contribution).

Special sessions should be related to relevant domains (e.g. humanitarian assistance, homeland security, first responders, emergency management, business continuity planning, etc.) and topics of interest include, but are not limited

- Information Sharing and Collaboration
- Decision Support and Expert Systems
- Simulation and Training Systems
- Multi-agent Systems and Distributed Artificial Intelligence
- Knowledge Acquisition and Knowledge Management
- Decentralized Decision Making
- Systems Implications on Policy and Organizational Structures
- Human Factors related to Systems Design (e.g. Cognition, Psychology, Sociology)
- Geospatial Systems
- Human Computer Interaction
- Free and Open Source Systems
- Early Warning Systems
- Integrating Information and Communication Systems
- Case Studies



The description for a special session should be written in the form of a call for the specific special session itself. The number of accepted special sessions is limited and therefore the proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the field
- Qualification and experience of session chair(s) in the proposed field
- Soundness and overall quality of the proposal
- Names of potential contributing authors (not necessary, but will put more weight on the proposal)

Please note that you will be invited to chair the session if it is accepted. This includes organizing the review process, for which further instructions will be given. We will make use of the accepted sessions to structure the Call for Papers that will be sent out on September 25, 2007.

ISCRAM 2008 Conference Website / Proposal Submission

- All information regarding the conference will be published on the conference website at <http://www.iscram.org>.
- Special session proposals have to be submitted via ISCRAM's proposal submission system at <http://www.conftool.com/iscram2008>. In order to submit a proposal you first have to create a new account.
- Proposal templates will be downloadable from <http://www.iscram.org> and are available for Microsoft Word and RTF.
- Both websites will go public on August 5, 2007
- If you have any additional questions please contact the ISCRAM 2008 conference committee at iscram2008@iscram.org.

Important Dates

September 3, 2007	Special session submission deadline
September 17, 2007	Notification of acceptance of special sessions
September 25, 2007	Call for Papers
December 21, 2007	Paper submission deadline
February 10, 2008	Notification of (conditional) acceptance
March 1, 2008	Final paper submission deadline
May 4 – 7, 2008	ISCRAM 2008 conference



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